

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated May 17, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellman (US 4,572,611) (incorporating by reference Stookey (US 2,628,160)) in view of Borrelli (US 5,062,877).

Summary of Amendment

Applicants have canceled Claims 4-6 and 12-14 (without prejudice), amended Claims 1-3, 8-11 and 16 and added Claims 26-27 to more particularly define the present invention.

In addition, Applicants have amended the Specification to correct a grammatical error where two periods were used to end a sentence.

Election/Restriction

Applicants affirm the election without traverse to prosecute Claims 1-16.

Remarks regarding the §103(a) rejections

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 9 is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli. In particular, the amended independent Claims 1 and 9 each have a limitation which is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli. This limitation is highlighted below in the amended independent Claims 1 and 9:

1. (Currently Amended) A lens array, comprising:
a photosensitive glass plate having a silicate glass composition with at least the following elements:

SiO₂ (65-85wt%)

Li₂O (8-11wt%)

Al₂O₃ (2-7wt%)

CeO₂ (0.01-0.05wt%) and including a photosensitive agent comprising:

Ag (0.0005-0.005wt%)

wherein when the photosensitive glass plate is subjected to an exposure step, a heat treatment step and a prolonged ion exchange step it becomes a glass composite plate that includes a plurality of glass regions which are lenses and at least one opal region located around the lenses (emphasis on the main distinguishing limitation).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for making a lens array, said method comprising the steps of:

placing a photomask over a non-exposed photosensitive glass plate having a silicate glass composition with at least the following elements:

SiO₂ (65-85wt%)

Li₂O (8-11wt%)

Al₂O₃ (2-7wt%)

CeO₂ (0.01-0.05wt%) and including an amount of a photosensitive agent comprising:

Ag (0.0005-0.005wt%);

exposing the photomask and selected regions in the non-exposed photosensitive glass plate to an ultraviolet light;

heating the exposed photosensitive glass plate to form therein a plurality of glass regions and at least one opal region; and

ion exchanging the heated photosensitive glass plate to create said lens array, wherein said lens array is a glass composite plate where the plurality of glass regions are lenses and the at least one opal region is located around the lenses (emphasis on the main distinguishing limitation).

The teachings of Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli differ significantly from the present invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 9. The amended independent Claims 1 and 9 each recite a photosensitive glass plate that contains Ag (0.0005-0.005wt%). This limitation is not taught in Stookey. Instead, Stookey discloses a photosensitive glass that contains 0.001-0.020wt% of Ag computed as AgCl (see col. 3, lines 23-46). The Examiner computed that 0.001-0.020wt% of AgCl had 0.0075-0.015wt% Ag (see page 4 of Office Action). As can be seen, the amount of Ag (0.0075-0.015wt%) in Stookey is larger than the amount of Ag (0.0005-0.005wt%) recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 9. Bellman and/or Borrelli do not cure this defect. Because, both Bellman and Borrelli teach a photosensitive glass plate that contains Ag (0.115wt%)(see col. 9, line 45 in Bellman and col. 4, line 42 in Borrelli). The amount of Ag (0.115wt%) in Bellman and Borrelli is larger than the amount of Ag (0.0005-0.005wt%) recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 9. Thus, an important limitation associated with the photosensitive agent Ag (0.0005-0.005wt%) recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 9 is not taught or suggested by Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection and allowance of amended independent Claims 1 and 9 and their associated dependent Claims 2-3, 6-8, 10-11, 15-16 and 26-27.

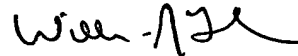
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli fail to disclose the subject matter claimed in dependent Claims 2-3 and 10-11. In particular, Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli fail to teach or disclose the following claimed subject matter:

- The glass composite plate (or lens array) has substantially clear, colorless lenses--Dependent Claims 2 and 10 (Applicants submit that the higher concentration of Ag in Bellman, Stookey and/or Borrelli would make their glass/lenses yellow in color--see the "Background of the Invention" section in the present patent application).
- The glass composite plate (or lens array) has lenses formed therein which have sag heights that are greater than 65 μ m--Dependent Claims 3 and 11.

Enclosed is a USPTO Credit Card Payment Form filled out for \$ 100.00 to cover the fee for two additional dependent Claims 26-27. If this is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1481.

Respectfully submitted,



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